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History Workshop Planned

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History Workshop Planned

A workshop of scholars to formulate plans for permanently preserving the rich oral history of west Florida will be held here Thursday and Friday.

More than 20 representatives of the USF Library, Tampa Public Library, the disciplines of American studies, anthropology, English, history and international studies will meet both days from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the special collections room of the USF Library to develop a proposal for furthering the oral history archives at USF and other libraries, according to Dr. James W. Silver, USF history professor and workshop coordinator.

DR. CHARLES W. Crawford, director of the Oral History Research Office of Memphis State University, and Dr. Samuel Proctor of the Indian Oral History Project of the Florida State Museum will act as consultants at the workshop.

"The idea of the seminar is to set up an oral history program here that would serve the lower southwest coast of Florida," Martin LaGodna, USF assistant history professor and workshop coordinator, said. "The whole purpose is to gather that history information that is not usually preserved in public records."

LaGodna said interviewing and taping "old timers" in the area, especially early Cuban immigrants who "may remember important events here," will serve as a major ingredient in the preservation of the oral history of the area.

USF'S CURRENT oral history archives include tapes such as those of former Florida Gov. Leroy Collins, the national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and comments by Tampa Bay area students and teachers experiencing school busing for the first time.

LaGodna said that Thursday and Friday's meetings will be held mostly to draw up a proposal to present to the administration.

"If we get the program set up, then we will begin to hold meetings for larger groups," LaGodna said. "I want to stress that the project is not a history department project but one that will affect all departments in the University. We hope the general public will profit also."

Persons interested in the workshop should contact LaGodna at ext. 2808.